

Reimbursement for Authorized Absence

(a) No payment or subsidy will be made to a nursing home for holding a bed while the recipient is receiving medical services elsewhere, such as in a hospital except in a situation where a nursing home is full and has a waiting list of potential residents. A nursing home will be considered full if all beds are occupied or being held for a patient temporarily in a hospital. In this exceptional instance, a payment may be made for holding a bed while the resident is temporarily receiving care in a hospital, is expected to return to the nursing home, and the cost of holding the nursing home bed will evidently be less costly than the possible cost of extending the hospital stay until an appropriate nursing home bed would otherwise become available. Furthermore, payment in this exceptional instance, may be made only upon approval from the director of the Department or his designee.

(b) Reimbursement will be made to a nursing home for reserving a bed while the recipient is temporarily absent if the recipient's plan of care provides for therapeutic home visits. A total of twenty-four (24) days annually will be allowed for therapeutic home visits. The facility is responsible for notifying the Department on a form provided by the Department when a resident leaves the facility for a therapeutic home visit. Reimbursement for therapeutic home visits will not be allowed unless the form is filed with the Department. Absences are restricted to no more than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours per absence. Additional days and longer hours per absence may be allowed if determined medically appropriate and prior authorized by the Director of the Department or his designee.

